

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-10. (canceled)
11. (currently amended) A tray for sample vessels, comprising:
an upper surface [[(4)]] with a plurality of orifices [[(2; 2.1)]] arranged in matrix configuration, wherein
each of the orifices [[which]] accommodates one sample vessel and wherein
each orifice (2; 2.1) comprises two straight planar positioning walls [[(10).]]
which define a positioning corner [[(11)]] forming a right angle, and
wherein
the orifices include orifice is provided with a planar flexible support wall [[(13;
31.1)]] positioned opposite the positioning corner, the flexible support wall
having an upper edge, two lateral edges and a lower edge [[(13; 13.1)]]],
the upper surface of the tray joining the upper edge of the support wall,
wherein the flexible [[which]] support wall of the orifices elastically presses
a sample vessel [[, which is]] inserted into the orifice [[,]]towards the
positioning corner, and wherein
the orifices have each orifice has at least one planar side wall [[(12)]] joining
[[the]] a lateral edge of a respective flexible [[the]] support wall to a lateral
edge of a respective one of the positioning walls.
12. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which each orifice is provided with a separate support wall [[(13; 13.1)]].
13. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which the positioning walls,
the at least one side wall and the flexible support wall of each (10, 12, 13) of the
orifice encircle the orifice peripherally.

14. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which the flexible support wall [[(13)]] is inclined towards the centre of the orifice.
15. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, wherein orifices in which an outwardly directed positioning wall [[(10)]] is provided in the orifice at an outer [[the]] edge of the matrix include outwardly directed positioning walls.
16. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 15, in which the outwardly directed positioning walls (10) of the orifices located at the edge join each other, forming a continuous periphery (14) around the matrix.
17. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which the orifices [[(2; 2.1)]] are disposed in arrays of four orifices [each,] starting from the corner of the matrix, wherein [[with]] the flexible support walls of the orifices are located at a means (13; 31.1) oriented towards the centre of the array.
18. (new) A tray for sample vessels comprising:
multiple square orifice arrays comprised of four orifices, wherein
each of the orifices in the orifice arrays is defined by a pair of planar positioning
walls joined to one another along an edge thereof to define a positioning
corner, and wherein
the orifice arrays include a pushing means positioned centrally in the orifice array
for elastically pushing a sample vessel inserted into an orifice in a
direction toward a respective one of the positioning corners, wherein the
pushing means includes planar elastic support walls each positioned in
opposition to a positioning corner of a respective orifice.
19. (new) A tray as in claim 18, wherein each of the orifices includes at least one
planar side wall having lateral edges which join a respective one of the
positioning walls to the support wall thereof.

20. (new) A tray as in claim 18, wherein each of the orifices includes a pair of side walls, each of the side walls having lateral edges joining respective ones of the positioning walls to the support wall thereof.
21. (new) A tray as in claim 20, wherein respective positioning walls, side walls and a supporting wall are joined to one another so as to define a periphery of each orifice in the orifice array.
22. (new) A tray as in claim 19, wherein the at least one side wall has an inwardly bent free edge which defines the support wall.